

## Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Envision/Zoom

10:00—11:30 a.m.

### Agenda

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#### Members Present

Brian Powers – Chair	Raven Alexander	Andrew Crane (z)
Kyelene Flaming (z)	Karen Fleteau (z)	Shea Hanson (z)
Shelley Herrington (z)	Emily Jensen	Jayne Otis
Tom Page (z)	Craig Perbeck (z)	Lisa Vayda (z)
Virginia Zapote		

#### City/County Staff Present

Mike Armour	Jacque Butler	Elizabeth Ewers
Jaime Nix	Samantha Seang (z)	Armand Shukaev (z)

#### Guests

Hannah Christenson—Envision
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- I. Welcome, Announcements & Introductions – Chair Brian Powers
    - a. Chair Brian Powers called the meeting to order with a quorum present.
  - II. Meeting Minutes
    - a. Motion made by Lisa Vayda to approve January 2024 minutes; seconded by Tom Page. **10-0 with one abstention.**
  - III. Monthly Updates
    - a. Transportation committee: Raven Alexander shared that there was a Transit Advisory Board meeting last week. Ridership continues to increase. Triannual audit is currently in progress. A stakeholders’ meeting was held on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Survey has now been closed; there were nearly 1,000 responses.
    - b. Kyelene Flaming shared that she has an employee who uses the Wichita Transit system and is interested in the board and the transportation committee.
      - i. Chair Brian Powers explained that board meetings are open and the employee is welcome to attend. The employee can reach out to Raven Alexander with feedback at any time.
      - ii. Jacque Butler pointed out that the Transit Advisory Board also has open meetings that the employee may be interested in attending.
    - c. Andrew Crane shared a concern that City buses have not been stopping to pick up passengers at the bus stop at Douglas and Waco.

#### IV. New Business

- a. Wichita Public Library coin-operated family restrooms
  - i. Jaime Nix, Director of Wichita Public Libraries, shared that the Advanced Learning Library has instituted token-access mechanisms on one restroom on the first floor and one on the second.
  - ii. This decision came after much deliberation after about 12 incidents of individuals using family restrooms for unsafe purposes.
  - iii. Token access will be in place for one year, and then the program will be reassessed. This is intended to be a temporary solution.
  - iv. No incidents have occurred since the library began using the tokens.
  - v. The family restroom in the children's area was not affected.
  - vi. All restrooms are ADA accessible; multi-use bathrooms are always accessible. Staff can assist anyone with accessibility concerns.
  - vii. Tom Page asked about accessibility of vending machines in the library.
    - 1. Jaime Nix said that anytime anyone needs assistance, staff is available to help. She is not sure about accessibility of vending machines.
    - 2. Jaime also shared that the coffee shop space is vacant currently, but they are working on bringing in a worker training model through partnership with Workforce Alliance.
- b. Audible pedestrian signals
  - i. Mike Armour, City of Wichita Traffic Engineer, suggested that this topic be deferred until next month's meeting. He would like to first discuss this issue at the March National Federation of the Blind meeting.
  - ii. Tom Page thanked Mike for coming and agreed with his deferral.
- c. National Council on Disability quarterly meeting: Wheelchair taxi service
  - i. Karen Flateau shared about a presentation from John Morris, a wheelchair traveler who discusses travel accessibility in various cities.
    - 1. Finding accessible Ubers, Lyfts, and taxis is very difficult and expensive. Regulations have not kept up with the rideshare boom.
    - 2. Wait times for paratransit are also an issue.
    - 3. ModivCare/Medicaid do not cover transportation to some therapies and treatments.
    - 4. There are almost no accessible transportation options for low-income people in rural areas.
    - 5. The presentation did not include many suggestions or solutions, but Karen wanted to share with the board and thinks that Wichita has an opportunity to do something innovative.
  - ii. Chair Brian Powers brought up Medicaid reimbursement for taxi rides as a topic to look deeper into.
  - iii. Andrew Crane shared that the National Federation of the Blind took action against Uber and Lyft. Andrew believes that this issue needs to be addressed with the Transit Committee, Wichita Transit, and Sedgwick County transportation.

- iv. Tom Page said that the National Federation of the Blind is under settlement with Uber and Lyft, mostly due to issues related to service animals. He said that Lyft provides an option to type in a code to make a donation to the National Federation of the Blind.
- v. Chair Brian Powers believes that the board needs to explore this topic, particularly options for private-public partnership. He suggested that Karen share her concerns with the Transit Advisory Board as well.
- vi. Raven Alexander shared that partnerships with private companies can be difficult due to federal requirements.

V. Old Business

a. Updated bylaws adoption

- i. Motion made by Lisa Vayda to adopt updated bylaws as written; seconded by Tom Page. **10-0 with one abstention.**

VI. Announcements

a. Kyelene Flaming received an email from Intrust Bank Arena following up on Tom Page's questions regarding website accessibility. She asked Tom to clarify where he was experiencing difficulty.

- i. Tom Page referred Kyelene to the person who approached him about the issue. He said that the issue is that the website is not meeting W-3 Access Guidelines standards.
- ii. Andrew Crane said that issues with service dog access and relief areas around Intrust Bank Arena have not been resolved.

b. Andrew Crane asked about the sidewalk issue near 1<sup>st</sup> and Topeka (TempleLive).

- i. Chair Brian Powers has asked counsel to review ADA requirements.
- ii. Virginia Zapote sent an email informing the board that there will be no further sidewalk closures for TempleLive events. However, construction has begun in the area, so the sidewalk will be closed for 30 days.
- iii. Virginia and the Traffic Engineering Department are exploring ways to ensure increased accessibility when sidewalks are closed.
- iv. Questions remain about what the City of Wichita considers "temporary" in regard to closures.

c. A few corrections will be made to the adopted bylaws:

- i. ARC of Sedgwick County has changed to AbilityPoint.
- ii. Sedgwick County Aging has changed to Sedgwick County Aging and Disabilities

VII. Public Comment – No public comments were made.

VIII. Adjournment